

ALBERTA CROP CONDITIONS REPORT #9
As of August 27, 2009

Provincial

Harvest is underway in all regions, principally on winter cereals and field peas. It is estimated that 10% of crops have been swathed with a further 3% harvested. For most crops, yield estimates have increased by 3-4 bushels/acre from July 30th with the exception of field peas which is up 1 bu/acre. Yield estimates remain below 80% of the last 5 year average. Light frost was reported in the western portion of central Alberta and across the central portion of the Peace. The province needs another 2 weeks of frost free weather to get this crop passed the frost danger.

Crop	Crop Rating (%)		Harvest Progress (%)		Yield (bu/acre)		% Average (Alberta)
	Poor/Fair	Good/Exc	Swathed	Harvested	StatsCan	Alberta	
Spr Wheat	74.8	25.2	5.5	1.3	35.3	32.0	77.9%
Durum	67.0	33.0	17.8	4.1	39.8	31.0	78.9%
Barley	74.3	25.7	7.2	2.5	53.4	43.6	73.9%
Oats	74.0	26.0	3.4	0.3	63.0	49.3	71.9%
W. Wheat	85.4	14.6	20.0	26.9	38.5	27.5	61.9%
Canola	76.1	23.9	14.1	0.7	25.6	26.4	78.1%
Fld Peas	78.9	21.1	4.0	23.5	29.5	26.5	70.9%

StatsCan released their July 31 crop yield estimates. In many cases, the estimates approach the 5 year average yield which was derived from relatively average years. The StatsCan estimates do not appear to reflect the effects of the difficult growing conditions experienced this year throughout Alberta as shown by the differences between the two sets of yield estimates. Sub soil moisture ratings have improved slightly to 53% poor/ 28% fair/ 17% good/ 2% excellent due to precipitation received in the north central areas principally.

66% of the 2nd cut irrigated hay and 19% of the 2nd cut dryland hay has been baled. Pasture ratings have improved slightly to 52% poor/ 38% fair/ 10% good but tame hay ratings have declined to 59% poor/ 31% fair/ 10% good.

Southern Alberta

Harvest this year is 7-14 days later than average due to the delayed maturity with only 15% swathed and 6% harvested. Since the July 30th report, estimated yields have increased 1-2 bu/acre with the exception of field peas which has declined by 2 bushels. Crop condition ratings are unchanged to slightly improved. Interestingly, early seeded crops are not performing as well this year, as the later seeded crops were able to take better advantage of the precipitation in late June/early July.

Crop	Crop Rating (%)		Harvest Progress (%)		Yield (bu/acre)	
	Poor/Fair	Good/Exc	Swathed	Harvested	Aug 27	% Average
Spr Wheat	51.2	48.8	13.6	4.6	34.3	86.8%
Durum	50.3	49.7	16.8	4.2	33.6	82.6%
Barley	49.1	50.9	13.2	4.8	46.4	84.4%
Oats	49.8	50.2	10.3	1.4	54.2	84.8%
W. Wheat	61.9	38.1	21.0	41.5	33.6	73.7%
Canola	54.0	46.0	24.7	4.1	27.4	86.7%
Fld Peas	61.4	38.6	2.4	58.9	25.2	69.8%

Sub soil moisture ratings have declined to 13% poor/ 33% fair/ 41% good/ 13% excellent. Surface moisture ratings at 65% good/excellent should be beneficial for the seeding of fall crops this year.

2nd cut hay is 59% completed for dryland and 66% completed for irrigated. Irrigated producers are optimistic they can get a 3rd cut. Pasture and tame hay ratings have declined significantly to 47% poor/ 41% fair/ 12% good for pastures and 56% poor/ 31% fair/ 13% good for tame hay.

Central Alberta

Harvest is underway with 10% swathed and 2% harvested. Yield estimates have improved by 2-3 bu/ acre from July 31st for most crops and stand in the high 60% range of the last 5 year average. A light frost was reported on August 24 in western areas of the region but potential damage is expected to be light. Crop condition ratings have improved with much of the improvement being from poor to fair. Producers in many areas are facing fields with multiple crop stages and canola which is still flowering which may require desiccation.

Crop	Crop Rating (%)		Harvest Progress (%)		Yield (bu/acre)	
	Poor/Fair	Good/Exc	Swathed	Harvested	Aug 27	% Average
Spr Wheat	85.3	14.7	10.9	1.5	27.3	68.1%
Durum	95.0	5.0	19.5	3.8	15.0	41.8%
Barley	82.5	17.5	8.6	0.9	41.1	68.8%
Oats	80.3	19.7	5.9	0	44.0	66.5%
W. Wheat	95.8	4.2	25.8	25.4	25.1	56.3%
Canola	83.9	16.1	9.3	0	24.1	75.3%
Fld Peas	89.2	10.8	4.6	35.4	22.5	60.5%

Precipitation in the central and eastern areas has improved sub soil moisture ratings to 30% poor/ 38% fair/ 32% good. 2nd cut dryland hay harvest is 43% complete. Pasture ratings have improved significantly as a result of the precipitation to 33% poor/ 50% fair/ 16% good/ 1% excellent. Tame hay ratings have declined slightly to 49% poor/ 34% fair/ 16% good/ 1% excellent.

North East Alberta

A small amount of harvest has begun with 3% swathed and 1% harvested, principally winter cereals and field peas. Desiccation is being used by some producers due to weed and second crop growth. Current yield estimates are up 2-4 bu from July 31st for most crops with barley up 8 bushels and oats up 13 bu. Crop condition ratings have improved by 5-10 points from the poor/fair categories to the good category though the good rating remains below 20% of the total. Grasshoppers continue to be an economic problem in some parts of the region.

Crop	Crop Rating (%)		Harvest Progress (%)		Yield (bu/acre)	
	Poor/Fair	Good/Exc	Swathed	Harvested	Aug 27	% Average
Spr Wheat	79.6	20.4	1.5	0.4	29.2	71.9%
Barley	83.5	16.5	2.8	0	44.6	75.9%
Oats	83.1	16.9	0	0	51.5	73.8%
W. Wheat	85.0	15.0	26.9	30.0	23.8	56.4%
Canola	90.8	9.2	4.9	0	23.2	68.2%
Fld Peas	88.5	11.5	5.0	7.1	26.7	66.8%

Sub soil moisture ratings have improved marginally due to precipitation in the region to 68% poor/ 27% fair/ 5% good. Hay and pasture ratings have also improved to 58% poor/ 31% fair/ 11% good for pastures and 64% poor/ 29% fair/ 7% good for tame hay. The harvest of 2nd cut hay is yet to start.

North West Alberta

A small amount of harvesting is underway with 6% swathed and 1% harvested. Compared to the July 31st report, yield estimates have increased by 3-6 bushels/acre but remain in the mid 60% to mid 70% range of the 5 year average. Crop condition ratings have improved by 5-10 points from the poor/fair categories to the good category though the good comprises less than 15% of the total. Grasshoppers are an economic problem in 30% of the region.

Crop	Crop Rating (%)		Harvest Progress (%)		Yield (bu/acre)	
	Poor/Fair	Good/Exc	Swathed	Harvested	Aug 27	% Average
Spr Wheat	86.4	13.6	0.7	0	33.8	74.1%
Barley	86.1	13.9	7.6	0.6	42.9	64.9%
Oats	87.1	12.9	0.4	0	46.1	63.2%
W. Wheat	99.0	1.0	6.2	10.3	26.5	57.6%
Canola	89.6	10.4	13.6	0	29.5	74.3%
Fld Peas	90.4	9.6	2.9	7.7	27.9	69.2%

The region received light precipitation which maintained sub soil moisture levels at 80% poor/20% fair. The 2nd cut dryland hay crop is 5% completed. Pasture ratings were unchanged at 61% poor/ 38% fair/ 1% good while the tame hay rating declined to 71% poor/ 28% fair/ 1% good.

Peace River

Harvest is estimated at 6% swathed, principally canola, and 3% combined, barley and field peas. Crop yield estimates have improved by 2-4 bushels/acre as compared to the July 31st report and fall in the 80 - 90% of the 5 year average. Crop condition ratings have declined with a 3 point drop in the good/excellent categories. Spring cereals are now rated at 30% good, with canola and field peas rated at 40% good. Frost was reported across the central portion of the region. The County of Clear Hills in the NW portion of the region received severe damage while the MD's of Fairview, Northern Lights, Smoky River and Big Lakes are reporting light frost with some localized moderate frost damage. Grasshoppers and lygus bugs are at economic damage levels in 10% of the region

Crop	Crop Rating (%)		Harvest Progress (%)		Yield (bu/acre)	
	Poor/Fair	Good/Exc	Swathed	Harvested	Aug 27	% Average
Spr Wheat	69.2	30.8	0	0	35.8	90.9%
Barley	69.6	30.4	3.2	6.5	43.5	79.2%
Oats	69.3	30.7	0	0	51.2	72.8%
Canola	57.3	42.7	20.0	0	27.8	88.3%
Fld Peas	60.4	39.6	5.0	17.7	29.6	89.7%

Sub soil moisture ratings are unchanged at 80% poor/ 18% fair/ 2% good. Hay and pasture ratings have declined with the change occurring in the fair to poor category. Pastures are rated at 64% poor/ 27% fair/ 9% good. Hay is rated 57% poor/ 31% fair/ 12% good. No 2nd cut hay crop is anticipated to be harvested this year.

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